

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. *(Currently Amended)* A trapping area creating method comprising:  
dividing an image, represented ~~by in form of~~ a combination of polygons to which colors are applied, into a plurality of image areas by at least one straight line passing through at least one vertex ~~vertexes~~ of the polygons, wherein an image area is designated by said at least one straight line and the boundaries of a polygon divided by said at least one straight line;  
determining if trapping should be applied to each pair of image areas adjacent to one another in at least one direction of two predetermined directions; and  
creating a band-shaped trapping area extending along a boundary of two image areas comprising a pair of image areas determined as being suitable for trapping.

2. *(Previously Presented)* A trapping area creating method according to claim 1, wherein said dividing the image uses straight lines extending in same directions as said two predetermined directions passing through the vertexes of the polygon, and sides of the polygon.

3. *(Previously Presented)* A trapping area creating method according to claim 1, wherein said determination uses, as said two predetermined directions, an upper and lower direction and a right and left direction of the image.

4. (*Previously Presented*) A trapping area creating method according to claim 1, wherein said determination is based on a difference between colors of two image areas constituting said pair of image areas.

5. (*Previously Presented*) A trapping area creating method according to claim 1, wherein creation of said trapping area creates, as said trapping area, an area interposed between a line constituting said boundary and a line obtained when said line (first occurring) is subjected to a parallel translation.

6. (*Currently Amended*) A trapping area creating apparatus for creating a trapping area in accordance with a trapping area creating method, said method comprising:

dividing an image, represented ~~by in form of~~ a combination of polygons to which colors are applied, into a plurality of image areas by at least one straight line passing through at least one vertex ~~vertexes~~ of the polygons, wherein an image area is designated by said at least one straight line and the boundaries of a polygon divided by said at least one straight line;

determining if trapping should be applied to each pair of image areas adjacent to one another in at least one direction of two predetermined directions; and

creating a band-shaped trapping area extending along a boundary of two image areas comprising a pair of image areas determined as being suitable for trapping.

7. (*Currently Amended*) A trapping area creating program storage medium storing a trapping area creating program, which causes a computer to execute a trapping area creating method, said method comprising:

dividing an image, represented ~~by in form of~~ a combination of polygons to which colors are applied, into a plurality of image areas by at least one straight line passing through at least one vertex ~~vertexes~~ of the polygons, wherein an image area is designated by said at least one straight line and the boundaries of a polygon divided by said at least one straight line;

determining if trapping should be applied to each pair of image areas adjacent to one another in at least one direction of two predetermined directions; and

creating a band-shaped trapping area extending along a boundary of two image areas comprising a pair of image areas determined as being suitable for trapping,

when said trapping area creating program is incorporated into said computer.